

(b) nucleotide 1,696,728 through nucleotide 1,697,420 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,698,096 through nucleotide 1,699,892 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,700,210 through nucleotide 1,701,088 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,701,293 through nucleotide 1,702,588 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,703,072 through nucleotide 1,704,091 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,704,091 through nucleotide 1,705,056 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,705,056 through nucleotide 1,705,784 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(i) nucleotide 1,705,808 through nucleotide 1,706,593 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(j) nucleotide 1,706,631 through nucleotide 1,707,524 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome; or

(k) nucleotide 1,707,530 through nucleotide 1,708,648 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome.

13. (Amended) A purified polynucleotide selected from:

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- a) a polynucleotide comprising at least 8 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide is present in the genome of *M. tuberculosis* but absent from the genome of *M. bovis*;
- b) a polynucleotide having a sequence fully complementary to SEQ ID NO:1;
and
- c) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions with the polynucleotide defined in a) or with the polynucleotide defined in b).

Please add the following new claims.

--51. (NEW) The polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein the stringent hybridization conditions comprise a hybridization step at 65°C in 6X SSC buffer, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS, and 100 µg/ml of salmon sperm DNA, two five minute washing steps at 65°C in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer, a 30 minute washing step at 65°C in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer, and a ten minute washing step at 65°C in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer .

52. (NEW) A purified polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 11--.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination in view of the following remarks.

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